

\*\*\*\*\*September 5, 2012\*\*\*\*\*

The Signal Mountain Town Council held a special agenda meeting on Wednesday, September 5, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. Those present were:

Vice Mayor Susan Robertson  
Councilmember Annette Allen  
Councilmember Dick Gee  
Councilmember Bill Wallace

Others present were: Town Manager Honna Rogers  
Town Recorder Carol White  
See attached list for others present

Fire Captain Kevin Nichols introduced Firefighter Betsy Welcome. The Council welcomed her to the Town.

Public Works Director Loretta Hopper presented the Council with a map of sidewalks that currently exist within the Town's rights-of-way. Ms. Hopper noted that most of the sidewalks shown are in Old Town. She explained that one of the grant requests the Town submitted to the 2014 TIP was to repair and upgrade all the sidewalks in Old Town to ADA standards. She is still awaiting word from TDOT and TPO to see if this project will meet their grant criteria.

Town Manager Honna Rogers opened a discussion on the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan. Ms. Rogers explained that in order for projects to receive funding from the TIP program, they have to be included in the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan.

She gave Council Members a list of proposed projects to be submitted for the 2040 RTP. After a discussion of various and potential projects, she asked that each Councilmember prioritize the projects. She explained that she would be working with Public Works Director, Loretta Hopper to collate the results and determine the consensus of the Council's rankings. Ms. Rogers noted that they would put together a summary and cost estimates as required for the projects to submit to the TPO.

Ms. Rogers opened a discussion regarding crosswalks. She explained citizens had expressed concerns to Councilmember Allen regarding crosswalk safety. Ms. Rogers said that the Transportation committee had discussed this issue several months ago. She explained that Police Chief Veal had written an article for the Signal Mountain Mirror in June that included information on crosswalks and that Ms. Hopper had contacted TDOT about placing crosswalk signs on Taft Highway.

Councilmember Allen inquired about the enforcement of state law for failure to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk. Chief Veal explained that the Tennessee Code is difficult to enforce because an officer has to be present to see the violation. Various educational and



awareness proposals regarding crosswalk safety were discussed, including the merits of passing a Town Ordinance setting crosswalk guidelines for motorists and pedestrians. Ms. Rogers and Chief Veal agreed they would research other communities to see how they handle this issue. Ms. Rogers will report back to Council at the end of the month.

Resident Peter Johnson, of Cherokee Lane, asked to be heard by the Council although he realized he was not on the agenda. The Council allowed him to speak. He explained to the Council that using Norris Field during the week for flag football practice was disruptive to his wife and family.

Honna Rogers and Chief Veal explained to the Council that an Administrative Hearing Officer could be of great benefit to the Town in cases when egregious violations of the building codes arise. The Council agreed and asked that an ordinance to contract an Officer be prepared for review at a later meeting.

Councilmember Gee reported that he and Ms. Rogers had met with Dick Urban regarding the current sewer moratorium in light of the Consent Decree that has been issued by the EPA against the City of Chattanooga. He explained that the core of the Consent Decree was to stop the City of Chattanooga from spilling raw sewage into the Tennessee River due to overflows of the system. The Signal Mountain pump station, owned and operated by the WWTa, continues to bypass and dump untreated sewage into the river and needs to connect to the Moccasin Bend plant. Councilmember Gee stated that the Town should take whatever action possible to address bypasses. Sewage in the TN River is a public health issue. Dick Gee suggested that the Council invite WWTa Director Cleveland Grimes to a meeting to offer an update on the moratorium and suggestions on how the town can help the WWTa with its efforts to end the Town's bypasses by upgrading the sewer system's lateral lines.

Vice Mayor Robertson requested that the proposed directional signage for the MACC be revised. She suggested removing the wording in parentheses leaving only the words "Mountain Arts Community Center" and an arrow. She also thought double-sided signs would be more appropriate because they could be viewed from both directions.

The Council discussed the Health, Educational and Housing Facility Board. This Board is required by the state to work on certain bonds. Since the Alexian has paid off all of its bonds, there is no longer any requirement for this Board. The Council agreed unanimously that there was no need for the board currently and, if a need arose in the future, it could be re-established. Ms. Rogers agreed to investigate what actions might be necessary to dissolve the board and would report back to the Council.

Councilmember Gee updated the Council on the Christmas Train. The Crew family is excited about the Lion Club's willingness to restore the train. He explained that three major sections of the train are currently in his garage. Refurbishment of these sections will begin this week. He believes that the train will be ready this Christmas.



Ms. Rogers asked the Council about a request to grant an easement across Town property at the pumping station so that an extension to the disc golf course could be accessed through a right-of-way behind the house there. The house is currently occupied by a Town employee, who is responsible for monitoring the water pumping station. The Council agreed that such an easement would infringe on the privacy of the occupants of the house.

Vice Mayor Robertson motioned that as long as the house is occupied the Town should not grant a right-of-way. Councilmember Gee seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion carried.

The Council also discussed a sign to honor SMMHS State Champions and directed Ms. Rogers to order one for the entrance to the Town.

Vice Mayor Robertson presented Council with a proposed Municipal Forestry and Development Policy. She explained that this policy is required by the Town's current Municipal Landscape Ordinance. It was that ordinance, which was written and passed 3 years ago, that qualified the Town as a Tree City USA. This Policy and additional educational information on tree care and maintenance from the National Audubon Society will be kept in a binder at Town Hall for interested persons. A resolution will be placed on the upcoming agenda.

Vice Mayor Robertson presented a proposed ordinance regarding building height restrictions in HDR Zoning. The item was added to the next regular Council meeting for discussion and possible referral to the Planning Commission.

Ms. Rogers told the Council that any suggestions to inform or change TML policies must be submitted to TML by September 21. She also informed the Council that she had offered to present a short talk to the Mountain Business Association at its monthly meetings to explain Town policies and discuss how the Town can further support local businesses. She will present the first one at their September meeting.

Councilmember Allen discussed the need for a public meeting on the proposed conservation easement. Councilmember Allen made a motion to ask the Land Trust for Tennessee to conduct a public meeting in October. Councilmember Gee seconded the motion. All present being in favor, the motion carried.

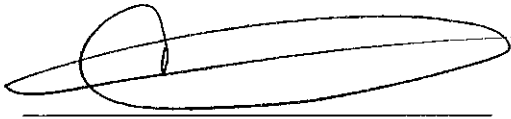
Vice Mayor Robertson presented information to Council regarding the placement of subdivision entrance structures and signage. She explained that of the eighteen entrance structures she and Cliff Fite, Engineer Technician, reviewed, twelve are on Town rights-of-way and two are illegal due to height restrictions in the Zoning Ordinance. Council agreed to refer this issue to the Planning Commission for review and recommendations.

Councilmember Gee stated that the MACC Board was opposed to MACC Director Barb Storm being directly involved with the community garden project. He also informed Council that Hodgepodge is scheduled for October.

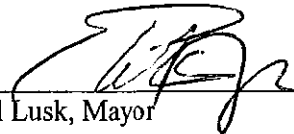
The September 10, 2012 regular meeting agenda was discussed as follows:

- A Resolution adopting a Municipal Forestry and Development Policy.
- A Resolution awarding a contract to refurbish the Gym Floor.
- A Resolution adopting an Emergency Management Plan.
- Building Height Restrictions for HDR Zoning.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature, possibly reading "J. Lusk", is written over a horizontal line.

Recorder

A handwritten signature, likely of Bill Lusk, is written over a horizontal line.  
Bill Lusk, Mayor